

Affairs over this or its subject matter. The House Foreign Affairs Committee has already passed through Committee its own legislation on 5G issues and will continue to legislate and provide oversight on diplomatic and foreign policy aspects of global telecommunications issues. Additionally, I ask that you support the appointment of Committee on Foreign Affairs conferees during any House-Senate conference convened for this legislation.

Finally, thank you for agreeing to include a copy of our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 3003.

Sincerely,

GREGORY W. MEEKS,
Chair.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, July 19, 2021.

Hon. GREGORY W. MEEKS,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MEEKS: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Energy and Commerce and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3003, the "Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2021", so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will ensure our letters on H.R. 3003 are entered into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,
Chairman.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3003, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act.

Our communications networks are a critically important asset for facilitating domestic and international commerce. For decades, the U.S. has led the development of wireless technology with like-minded nations. With the deployment of the next-generation wireless technology 5G, which is expected to skyrocket in the coming years and months, we must continue to focus on bolstering the foundational elements to make sure the United States continues to lead on future technological advances.

As these standards are set in global, industry-led standards bodies, we must enhance participation by U.S. companies and remain vigilant that bad actors don't game the system for their own economic and national security interests.

To keep accountability and ensure proper transparency, we must ensure participation by trusted like-minded partners. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA, plays a central role in

these efforts as the executive branch agency with technical expertise on wireless innovation. It has decades of experience working with industry and other stakeholders to develop these technical standards globally. I would also like to thank the dedicated career staff who worked tirelessly to advance U.S. global wireless leadership.

As we move into the next decade, it is critical that we continue to enhance participation in critical standards-setting bodies and preserve U.S. wireless leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3003, again a very important piece in our infrastructure in this country, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3003, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2021.

The policy choices of today will have lasting effects on the global 5G technology development of tomorrow.

This bipartisan bill, which I co-led with my fellow 5G Caucus co-chairs, Representatives WALBERG, KUSTER, and JOHNSON, would solidify United States leadership in 5G technology by encouraging interagency coordination, technical assistance, and stakeholder participation in international standard setting bodies.

We must take concrete steps to lower barriers to entry for U.S. companies and promote American competitiveness in this space.

This legislation will ensure the United States remains at the forefront of innovation in this evolving frontier by playing a central role in setting international wireless standards in emerging technologies. This approach has dramatic ramifications for our global competitiveness, 5G deployment, and our national security.

I strongly urge all my colleagues to support this important bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3003.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

PRESERVING HOME AND OFFICE NUMBERS IN EMERGENCIES ACT OF 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 678) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for a moratorium on number reassignment after a disaster declaration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 678

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Preserving Home and Office Numbers in Emergencies Act of 2021" or the "PHONE Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. MORATORIUM ON NUMBER REASSIGNMENT AFTER DISASTER DECLARATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) MORATORIUM ON NUMBER REASSIGNMENT AFTER DISASTER DECLARATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a number assigned to a subscriber for the provision of fixed wireline voice service at a location in a designated area during a covered period—

"(i) the number may not be reassigned, except at the request of the subscriber; and

"(ii) the assignment of the number may not be rescinded or otherwise modified, except at the request of the subscriber.

"(B) EXTENSION AT REQUEST OF SUBSCRIBER.—During the covered period, at the request of a subscriber described in subparagraph (A), the prohibition in subparagraph (A) shall be extended for the number for 1 year after the date on which the covered period expires.

"(C) SUBSCRIBER RIGHT TO CANCEL AND RESUBSCRIBE.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a number described under subparagraph (A) or (B), if the subscriber assigned to such number demonstrates to the provider of the service (or, under subclause (II), any other provider of fixed wireline voice service that serves the local area) that the residence where the number is located is inaccessible or uninhabitable—

"(I) the provider may not charge the subscriber an early termination or other fee in connection with the cancellation of such service, if cancelled during the covered period or the extension of the period described in subparagraph (B); and

"(II) if the subscriber cancels the service during the covered period or the extension of the period described in subparagraph (B), the provider (or any other provider of fixed wireline voice service that serves the local area)—

"(aa) shall permit the subscriber to subscribe or resubscribe, as the case may be, to fixed wireline voice service with the number at the residence or at a different residence (if such number is available in the location of such different residence); and

"(bb) may not charge the subscriber a connection fee or any other fee relating to the initiation of fixed wireline voice service.

"(ii) CANCELLATION WITHOUT DEMONSTRATION OF INACCESSIBILITY OR UNINHABITABILITY.—If a subscriber cancels the provision of service assigned to a number described in subparagraph (A) or (B) and does not demonstrate to the provider of such service that the residence where the number is located is inaccessible or uninhabitable as described under clause (i), the number is no longer subject to the prohibition under subparagraph (A) or (B).

"(D) IDENTIFICATION ON COMMISSION WEBSITE.—The Commission shall publicly identify on the website of the Commission

each designated area that is in a covered period, not later than 15 days after the submission of a public designation by a State under subparagraph (E)(iii) with respect to such area. In identifying a designated area under subparagraph (E)(iii), a State shall consult with providers of fixed wireline voice service that serve such area and coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reasonably limit the designated area to areas that have sustained covered damage.

“(E) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) COVERED DAMAGE.—The term ‘covered damage’ means, with respect to an area—

“(I) damage that renders residences in such area inaccessible or uninhabitable; or

“(II) damage that otherwise results in the displacement of subscribers from or within such area.

“(ii) COVERED PERIOD.—The term ‘covered period’ means a period that—

“(I) begins on the date of a declaration by the President of a major disaster under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) with respect to a designated area; and

“(II) ends on the date that is 1 year after such date.

“(iii) DESIGNATED AREA.—The term ‘designated area’ means a geographic area for which a State has submitted a public designation to the Commission, within 15 days after a declaration by the President of a major disaster under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) with respect to such area, stipulating that the State has determined that—

“(I) covered damage was sustained in such area; and

“(II) the prohibitions described in this paragraph are necessary and in the public interest.

“(iv) VOICE SERVICE.—The term ‘voice service’ has the meaning given the term ‘voice service’ in section 227(e)(8).”

(b) AMENDMENT OF FCC RULES REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall amend its rules to reflect the requirements of paragraph (5) of section 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)), as added by subsection (a).

(c) APPLICABILITY.—Paragraph (5) of section 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)), as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) after the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Commission announces that the Commission is capable of publicly identifying a designated area on the website of the Commission under subparagraph (D) of such paragraph (5).

(d) ORDER OF AMENDMENT EXECUTION.—If this Act is enacted before October 17, 2021, section 3(a) of the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-172) is amended, effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, by striking “adding at the end” and inserting “inserting after paragraph (3)”, so that the paragraph (4) that is to be added by such section to section 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)) appears after paragraph (3) of such section 251(e) and before the paragraph (5) added to such section 251(e) by subsection (a) of this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on H.R. 678.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 678, the Preserving Home and Office Numbers in Emergencies Act or the PHONE Act.

The PHONE Act is a bill that Representative MIKE THOMPSON was inspired to write because of stories he heard at home in his district in the aftermath of devastating wildfires in northern California. After being evacuated by the Atlas and Tubbs fires a few years ago, Representative THOMPSON's constituents returned to their homes determined to rebuild what was lost; however, when it came time to hook up their telephone service again, they were rightly outraged to discover that the phone company had rescinded their phone numbers and, in most cases, re-assigned them to different subscribers.

Nobody should have to worry about losing a phone number they have had for years because their home or their small business was left uninhabitable by a natural disaster like a wildfire or a hurricane. This legislation makes sure that that doesn't happen again.

The PHONE Act prohibits providers from reassigning phone numbers of subscribers within an area subject to a major disaster declaration. Specifically, if the President has issued a major disaster declaration and a Governor has designated the area to the FCC, the phone numbers in that designated area cannot be reassigned for 1 year. And then, if a subscriber needs more time, this bill allows them to get a year-long extension.

The legislation would also allow consumers whose homes are inaccessible or uninhabitable to cancel their service without a cancellation fee or re-subscription fee when they get phone service somewhere else in the area during that covered period.

What we are doing here, Mr. Speaker, ultimately is ensuring some stability for people who have lost their homes or businesses after a major disaster hits their community. This is one less thing that a resident or a small business will have to worry about as they work to pick up the pieces. In the age of robocalls, our phone numbers are how our friends and family know exactly who is trying to reach them when we call, and that is why this legislation is necessary.

When disaster strikes, our constituents should know they won't lose their numbers; especially the seniors and the small businesses who rely on landline telephones more than others.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative THOMPSON for his tireless leadership on this issue, as well as my Republican colleagues, for working with us to improve the bill before it passed the House last Congress. This is a really good bill, the same bill we passed and sent to the Senate last fall.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation. I hope our colleagues in the Senate will finally take up the PHONE Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 678, the PHONE Act. This legislation will ensure that Americans whose homes are lost during a fire or other natural disaster do not have to worry about losing their home phone numbers.

As we have seen from the horrific fires over the last several years, they destroy everything in their path. No matter how resilient a home or communications tower may be, you cannot regulate your way out of a fire's burning path.

Today, when a natural disaster strikes, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, is activated to provide housing assistance and other resources to respond to the crisis at hand. If your home is completely burned to the ground, the last thing that you should have to worry about is if your home phone number will be available when you return.

Thankfully, the Federal Communications Commission, FCC, can prevent that from happening. The FCC can waive rules and regulations that require landline phone numbers to return to the pool of available numbers when a home is completely destroyed by a natural disaster. This bill codifies that process, but we still must be cautious. This type of relief should only apply to areas where significant physical damage has occurred to render a home uninhabitable, as is the objective of the bill.

It is FEMA's role to determine which households have actually sustained damage in an affected county, which this bill does not codify, and we hope can be addressed as it moves through the process. As the experts on the ground, we should defer to their assessment before these regulations go into effect.

While it may be easy to grab a cell phone upon evacuating, landlines cannot be brought on the go. For many people, especially our seniors, they rely on their landline phone number to stay connected to family, their doctor, and others during such a trying time in their life. During a traumatic event, one less thing they should not have to worry about is losing their home phone number.

I ask for support of this measure moving forward, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the

gentleman from California (Mr. McNERNEY).

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 678, the PHONE Act. As we stand here today, wildfires are raging across the West, including in my home of northern California.

Last year, California witnessed a devastating and terrible fire season. We saw some of the largest fires in the State's history and a record-breaking 4.4 million acres burned. Nearly every part of the State was blanketed by fire and smoke, and we really haven't gotten much of a break. The number of wildfires and the amount of land burned in our State so far this year greatly exceeds the totals for the same period last year.

Climate change is resulting in longer and more extreme wildfire seasons, and this is expected to continue. Worrying about deadly fires spreading quickly is the new norm that my constituents are now living in. And worrying about whether they will have to evacuate their homes is also part of this new norm.

Because of this legislation that we are considering today, the PHONE Act, which I am proud to cosponsor, my constituents, Californians, and Americans all across the country who are impacted all too frequently now by natural disasters due to climate change, will have to worry about one less thing when they are forced to evacuate their homes, and that is their ability to keep their phone numbers.

Under this legislation, communications providers will be prohibited from reassigning phone numbers of customers in areas covered by a major disaster declaration for the duration of the declaration, and this may be extended. The bill would also prohibit providers from assessing early termination fees to cancel services or connection fees to resubscribe to a new address for subscribers whose residence is inaccessible or uninhabitable due to major disaster.

There is so much that wildfire victims already have to worry about. We must move quickly to ensure the PHONE Act is signed into law so there is one less item on their plate. It is hard enough to pick up the pieces after a disaster. Let's not add insult to injury.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, for his work on this legislation.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I support H.R. 678 moving forward, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1515

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Before we conclude this series of bills under the jurisdiction of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I want to say that this is a bittersweet day for me. After 25 years of outstanding serv-

ice, Jeff Carroll, who is sitting behind me here, who has been my longtime chief of staff and is now the staff director of the committee, will be leaving the House at the beginning of August, in just another 10 days or so.

It would be an understatement to say that Jeff has been my most trusted adviser for almost my entire time in Congress. He is known to Members and staff on both sides of the aisle for his candor, political savvy, and commitment to the little guy.

He has never forgotten his roots back in New Jersey. That, again, would be an understatement. Many of you know that he is a diehard fan of Bruce Springsteen, but also the Mets, the Giants, and the vaunted pork roll. He is a Jersey guy through and through. I don't think anybody would argue with that.

He joined my staff as an executive assistant in 1997 after graduating from George Washington University. I won't tell you how many people from GW he has hired in the office and on the committee. Before that, he briefly served as a staff assistant to New Jersey's then-Senator, Robert Torricelli.

Shortly after joining my staff, Jeff took on the added responsibility of serving as my legislative aide on both labor and defense issues. It was here that he began his longtime work of protecting New Jersey military installations from closure.

He was my defense staffer on 9/11 and during the debate on the Authorization for Use of Military Force against Iraq. I valued his counsel at the time, and my vote against that authorization and the invasion into Iraq remains one of my most proud moments as a Member of the House. But I have to tell you, without Jeff, it might not have turned out that way.

Within 6 years, he became my chief of staff, serving with distinction the people of New Jersey's Sixth Congressional District for 12 years.

Without a doubt, the largest crisis that we confronted during his time as my chief of staff was Superstorm Sandy in 2012. My congressional district is along the coast of north Jersey, and was one of the hardest hit districts in the country by Sandy. For more than a year, Jeff led my team in response and recovery, literally being out there. Both in New Jersey and here, they worked around the clock, helping families and small businesses pick up the pieces.

Jeff also fought relentlessly, along with me and others in New Jersey and New York, to make sure we received the Federal assistance that our States needed and deserved.

In 2015, when I was elected the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee—and that was certainly in large part because of Jeff—he became the Democratic staff director. Then, 4 years later, when I became the chairman of the committee, Jeff became the committee staff director.

As staff director of the committee, Jeff has led the committee staff in all

the committee's accomplishments over the last 6 years. I am going to list some of them, but I have to tell you, it is an incredible list of accomplishments through Jeff's efforts, including, of course, the latest, the COVID-19 pandemic and the severe economic downturn.

Jeff helped shepherd four bills through the House to help combat the coronavirus that became law. These laws ensured Congress provided the tools and resources needed to bring an end to this terrible pandemic while also providing relief to struggling American families.

Besides responding to the pandemic, Jeff was instrumental in our efforts, and I want to list some of the very important bills: to end surprise medical bills; to reduce and block robocalls; to phase down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons and mandate the repair of methane leaks; to protect Americans from suspected foreign communications network equipment; to reauthorize the Safe Drinking Water Act for the first time in 20 years; to expand treatment for people fighting opioid use disorder; to invest in new medical treatments and cures for some of the most debilitating and life-threatening diseases; to modernize the Toxic Substances Control Act, which took about 14 years, to better protect public health and the environment; and to extend critical funding for programs that improve the health and welfare of millions of children, families, and seniors across the country. That is not an exaggeration, Jeff's role in all of that.

He has been by my side through my greatest trials and achievements in office. My congressional office, the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Congress, and the Nation have benefited enormously from Jeff's commitment to achieving meaningful progress for the American people.

It means time away from his family. There have been a lot of long nights, late-night phone calls, which I am known for, and weekends spent working to move forward.

I don't know what to say other than to acknowledge the unwavering support that Jeff has received from his wife, Shannon; his daughter, Lizzie; and his son, Ryan. I thank them for sharing Jeff with all of us for all these years.

I know I am going to be talking to Jeff and getting advice from Jeff, but when I say bittersweet, I really mean it. I don't know how we are going to do without him, but I guess we have to continue. That is the way it goes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by saying that the American people have benefited from Jeff Carroll's 25 years of public service. I am going to miss him tremendously, and I wish him nothing but the best in his future pursuits.

Mr. LATTA. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PALLONE. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Jeff on his future endeavors.

Our staffs do so much for us. As the chairman was speaking, I was thinking that the hours that they put in aren't ever recognized, including the work over the weekends. I know when I have talked to our committee staff, especially when we have worked on pieces of legislation the last several Congresses, with the amount of work that goes into it, we have to thank our staff.

For all his years of service here and for his future endeavors, I give him my best wishes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, the PHONE Act of 2021.

My district has been ravaged by wildfire every year since 2017. Thousands of homes have burned, and many families have been displaced. Following these fires, survivors called my office and told me they were losing their landline numbers because their phones had been disconnected for too long after their houses were destroyed.

Fire survivors face so many hurdles on the road to recovery. Losing their phone number is the last thing they should worry about. That's why I introduced the PHONE Act with Representative NEWHOUSE. This bipartisan legislation allows disaster survivors to keep their phone numbers and have some peace of mind while they rebuild.

I thank Chairwoman ESHOO and the Committee for their attention to this important issue and I urge a yes vote on the PHONE Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 678.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

REFUGEE SANITATION FACILITY SAFETY ACT OF 2021

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1158) to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1158

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. SECURE ACCESS TO SANITATION FACILITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.

Subsection (a) of section 501 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years

1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 2601 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (11) as paragraphs (7) through (12), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

"(6) the provision of safe and secure access to sanitation facilities, with a special emphasis on women, girls, and vulnerable populations."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1158.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1158, the Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act of 2021.

Mr. Speaker, according to the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, by the end of 2020, there were at least 26 million people worldwide living as refugees, the highest number ever recorded.

As people who have been forced to flee their home countries because of persecution or because of violence, refugees are amongst the globe's most vulnerable populations. To make matters worse, these people must often settle in areas that are inadequate in terms of necessities such as access to water, shelter, and sanitation.

Simply put, the conditions that refugees regularly endure are unacceptable. People should not have to surrender their access to sanitation in exchange for their own safety.

That is why I support the Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act. This bill would ensure that refugees have safe and secure access to sanitation facilities, with a special emphasis on women, girls, and the most vulnerable populations.

By providing for safe and secure sanitation facilities, this bill will not only improve the health and safety of tens of millions living in refugee settlements, but it will also allow these same people to focus more of their energy and ingenuity into rebuilding their lives.

I thank my colleague from New York, Representative GRACE MENG, a tireless champion for the rights of vulnerable people, women, and girls, for authoring this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act.

I commend my colleagues, Representative MENG and Chairman MEEKS, for their work on this issue.

Around the world, we are seeing unprecedented levels of displacement due to conflict and humanitarian disasters. Unfortunately, many of these crises have gone on for many years, even decades, like we have seen in South Sudan.

I would just note, parenthetically, my good friend KAREN BASS and I have been to refugee camps throughout Africa and have seen the great work that is done by the United States, working with the UNHCR and other international organizations, literally saving people who otherwise would die of starvation or sickness, so what a great humanitarian effort made by this country and by others, including the UNHCR.

I would point out to my colleagues that new emergencies, like Ethiopia and the growing instability in Afghanistan, have stretched the capabilities of the United Nations and the international community. The COVID-19 pandemic, as it surges in much of the developing world, is only making these crises worse. Lack of access to clean water and cramped living conditions continues to hamper prevention efforts.

A generation of young people is growing up knowing only life in a refugee camp. The conditions in many of these camps around the world are dire and particularly dangerous for vulnerable populations, such as women and children.

This bill ensures support for safe sanitation facilities for refugees and displaced persons living in camps around the world.

The U.S. continues to be the largest donor to refugees and displaced persons around the world. That has been a historical fact no matter who was in the White House, speaking to the humanitarian beliefs of this country to care for those who are at risk and who are vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, this is lifesaving legislation. By helping ensure that women and children, who make up the majority of refugees around the world, have access to safe and secure sanitation facilities, this body will dramatically improve the health and quality of life of millions of people who have already suffered so much.

Again, I thank my friend, Congresswoman MENG, for introducing this invaluable legislation. I urge my colleagues to give it their full support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1158.